

REMARKS

The "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review" has been studied and FIGS. 1, 4, 5 and 6 corrected. The corrections made are shown on the attached sheet of drawings (FIG. 6 with darker lines). A formal drawing incorporating the corrections is submitted herewith.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14 and 16, each of those claims has been amended to define the unique structure of applicant's invention in language which, it is believed, will be more clearly understood. In that regard applicant submits that the structure and function of applicant's catheter and bolus is clearly different from that of any prior art devices, and that the sole issue is one of properly defining the differences.

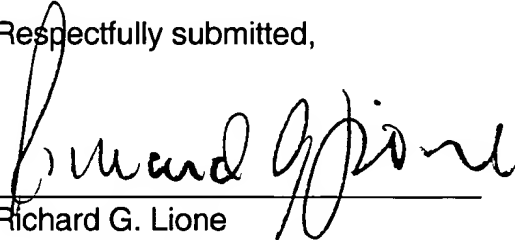
Applicant's invention is embodied in a bolus having a bullet nose characterized by two salient features. The nose, where it meets the port on one side of the bolus has an outside diameter which is considerably smaller than the diameter of the bolus which follows. Nevertheless, the nose is positioned so that its outer periphery, directly in front of the port, is tangent to an imaginary cylinder projected forwardly from the outer surface of the bolus behind the port (the connector section). In other words, the nose axis is radially offset from the axis of the bolus in the direction of the port. This is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

To accomplish the foregoing in the preferred embodiment, the axis of the nose is inclined from the axis of the connector section in the radial direction of the port. As a result, when the nose is deflected downwardly by a wire W, as seen in Figure 13, the nose does not protrude outside of circumference of the trailing bolus as it moves through a patient's blood vessel.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims remaining in the application now effectively define the salient features of the invention. When these salient features are so defined, the Conway et al., Cruz et al., Mahurkar and Andersen references become virtually irrelevant. None shows or suggests a bolus and bolus nose configuration which remotely resembles that claimed. As such, the remaining claims should be allowable over those references.

On the subject of non-statutory double patenting, it is respectfully submitted that the claims at issue here are, in fact, patentably distinct from those of Application Serial No. 09/853,511. However, if a rejection on this basis is made final, applicant is prepared to file a suitable Terminal Disclaimer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard G. Lione", written over a horizontal line.

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